

lives on what would become known as "The Day the Music Died." Fifty years ago today, on February 3, 1959, a plane crashed near Clear Lake, Iowa, killing Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson, and the pilot of the plane Roger Peterson. These musicians individually and collectively influenced a generation.

Charles Hardin Holley, the singer known as Buddy Holly was born on September 7, 1936 and was a pioneer in rock-'n'-roll. He was raised in a musical family and found his calling in rock-'n'-roll in 1955. Buddy Holly shared the stage with many of the artists who were influenced by his work, such as Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, The Beatles, and the Rolling Stones, prior to his untimely death at the age of 22.

Ritchie Valens, born Richard Stevens Valenzeula, was equally influential in his brief musical career. Born of Mexican decent, Valens was raised on mariachi and flamenco guitar music. He later used this influence to develop the unique Spanish language rock so many grew to love, such as in his hit "La Bamba," which was originally a Mexican Folk song.

Jiles Perry Richardson, Jr., known as "The Big Bopper", was a disk jockey, singer and songwriter who thrilled fans with classic recordings such as "Chantilly Lace," and wrote such as "White Lightnin'" for George Jones and "Running Bear" for Johnny Preston. Fifty years later after their death, their songs continue to grace the airways and influence many musicians today.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the lives of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson for their lives were cut tragically short but whose music will continue to live on.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GERALD SCHOENFELD

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerald Schoenfeld, who, as chairman of the Shubert Organization for more than 3 decades, was instrumental in revitalizing theater in New York and in making Broadway a national brand.

The Shubert Organization owns and operates theaters in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. On Broadway, where it is preeminent in theatrical influence, the organization owns 17 theaters, most of which are in my Congressional District. Additionally, the Shubert Foundation provides major support to nonprofit theaters and dance companies across the country.

Gerry Schoenfeld believed that the Shubert Organization was much more than a custodian of theaters. In fact, the organization invested in and produced many significant plays and musicals, winning numerous Tony Awards. With his friend and business partner Bernard Jacobs, Gerry Schoenfeld was involved in presenting or producing everything from popular blockbusters, like *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, to critically acclaimed productions like *The Life & Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *Amadeus*, *Dreamgirls*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *The Real Thing*, and *The Heidi*

Chronicles. Again with Jacobs, Schoenfeld was instrumental in moving A Chorus Line from the New York Shakespeare Festival to Broadway, where it ran for 15 years.

Gerry Schoenfeld knew all the players, big and small, in the Broadway theatrical community and in the world beyond it. His dedication to Shubert employees was legendary. He knew everyone from the box office workers to the backstage crewmembers by name, and often spent his Saturdays making the rounds of the Shubert theaters, personally ensuring that things were running the way he wanted them to.

Perhaps one of his most important contributions lay in his tireless efforts to demonstrate how powerful an economic engine the theater industry is, not only for New York, but also for the nation. Still another achievement was his success in spearheading the effort to make New York's theater district and the surrounding Times Square area family-friendly destinations.

A native New Yorker, Schoenfeld attended local public schools, graduated from the University of Illinois, served in the Army during World War II, and earned a law degree from New York University's School of Law. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a faculty member of Columbia University's School of the Arts. American theater suffered a true loss with the death of Gerald Schoenfeld on November 25, 2008 at the age of 84.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that Gerald Schoenfeld, who left such an important legacy to Broadway and to America, be remembered and honored.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ENHANCE- MENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, Nearly 16 years ago, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA, PL 103-3), legislation that allows employees to take time off from work to care for a new baby or sick family member. Because of this landmark legislation, tens of millions of Americans have been able to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

Building on the successes of the FMLA, today I will introduce legislation that would allow more workers to take leave to care for their family members and allow parents to take leave for parent-teacher conferences and family members' doctor's appointments.

The Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act would broaden protections under the FMLA to allow employees in companies with more than 25 employees to take family or medical leave. Current law applies only to companies with 50 or more employees. The legislation would also provide up to 24 hours per year of unpaid Parental Involvement and Family Wellness leave, which will allow parents and grandparents to attend parent-teacher conferences or to take their children, grandchildren or other family members to the doctor for regular medical or dental appointments. In

these trying economic times, it is more important than ever that family members be able to take time off of work to care for each other, without the risk of losing their jobs.

Then-presidential candidate Obama endorsed this concept in a June, 2008 speech in Albuquerque, NM, saying, "With more and more households headed by two working parents—or a single working parent—it's also time to dramatically expand the Family and Medical Leave Act. Since more Americans are working for small businesses, I'll expand FMLA to cover businesses with as few as 25 employees—this will reach millions of American workers who aren't covered today. . . . We'll allow parents to take 24 hours of annual leave to join school activities with their kids."

On behalf of America's families, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in support of the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act.

COMMEMORATING STONY BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH AN- NIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark an important milestone in the civic life of Stony Brook, New York, a picturesque college town on the shores of Long Island Sound. In 1909, a small group of volunteers founded the Stony Brook Fire Department, beginning a tradition of service that has continued uninterrupted for 100 years.

The job of volunteer firefighting has changed significantly in the past century. Fire alarms in Stony Brook are no longer broadcast with church bells, and the Fire Department's original hand-drawn chemical firefighting apparatus has been replaced with state-of-the-art equipment.

However, Madam Speaker, the spirit of volunteer firefighters remains undiminished, and is as vital today as ever before. I join their neighbors in thanking the Stony Brook Fire Department for 100 years of protecting the community and wish them the best as they enter a second century of service.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR FLORIDA VETERANS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

MR. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the lives and legacies of the late Ernest Holman, John Joseph Sweet, Nathaniel Henry Winger, and Pedro Aguero. Following years of courageous, dutiful and patriotic service to their country while serving in the United States Army, these four men found themselves homeless and without families.

After dedicating years of their lives, these four brave and patriotic men answered the call of duty by risking their lives to serve and protect our Nation. As citizens we owe these men an overabundance of gratitude and respect for their compassion, commitment, and dedication